

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figure 1, originally filed, with the substitute drawing sheet at the end of this document. Reference numeral 5a has been deleted from the corrected Figure 1.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. New claims 9-15 have been added.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Felzer (US Patent 3,827,525). Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly distinguish from the prior art. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felzer (US Patent 3,827,525) and in view of Ito (US Patent 5,203,749).

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended by adding limitations to each so that they more clearly distinguish from the prior art. For ease in review, the added claim language “points” to the following reference numerals shown in the drawings.

Part	Reference numeral
Engine	3
Input shaft	11
Transmission	6
Output shaft	12
Toe board	8
Floor panel	4
Casing	14
Floor tunnel portion	5
Projecting portion	15

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 or claim 4 and thus should also now also be in allowable condition.

New claim 9 calls for the projecting portion 15 being formed so as to have a rod shape. According to the Examiner, *Massel* (US Patent 5,193,415) teaches a projecting portion. However, *Massel* does not teach or suggest a plurality of projecting portions longitudinally formed on the casing.

* * *

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing,
please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032405.147.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for
in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be
charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032405.147.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:


Glenn J. Perry, Reg. No. 28,458
1850 M Street, NW – Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202/973-2611
Facsimile: 202/263-4311

Date: June 3, 2005
GJP/jjk